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The Beacon

Vol. XII Number 9

Friday, April 4, 2014

www.merrimacknewspaper.com

‘Sunny’ Commencement Actor Charlie Day ’98 to Speak at Graduation

Actor, producer and screenwriter Charlie Day, a 1998 graduate of Merrimack College, will deliver the keynote address at Merrimack’s 64th undergraduate commencement ceremony.



The decision was first announced to the Student Council late Wednesday, in a meeting with President Christopher Hopey.

“Charlie Day is a tremendous success story and a proud alumnus,” said Hopey. “He has been very supportive of the college, and we’re sure

he will both enlighten and entertain our graduating seniors and their families.”

Hopey told the council, composed of graduating seniors, that he met Day in December in Hollywood and proposed he return to his alma mater to speak.

The college will present diplomas to 520 seniors during the undergraduate ceremony, to be held at 10 a.m. Sunday, May 18 in the Lawler Arena.

Philanthropic entrepreneur Rachael Chong will deliver the keynote at a ceremony for 175 master’s students, to be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 16 in the Athletics Complex.

Day majored in fine arts at Merrimack and participated in the OnStagers dramatic society. He co-created and stars in the FXX series “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia” and appeared in

several major films, including “Pacific Rim,” “Horrible Bosses” and “Monsters University.”

Following the announcement Merrimack temporarily renamed Augie’s Pub “Paddy’s Irish Pub/South Philadelphia,” the fictional bar run by Day’s character and his “gang” on “It’s Always Sunny.”

Merrimack will confer honorary doctorates on Day, on retiring trustees Patrick Maraghy and Rev. Anthony “Mickey” Genovese, and on Timothy Murphy, who is stepping down as trustee chairman but will remain on the board, during

the undergraduate ceremony.

At the ceremony for graduate students, an honorary degree will be conferred on Chong, founder and CEO of Catchafire.

“Rachael Chong’s outstanding work connecting professionals with social-justice organizations is making our world a better place, and our community more cohesive, every day,” said Hopey.

“All our honorees have proven themselves both successful and highly ethical leaders in their fields, truly embodying Merrimack’s core values.”



At the ‘renamed’ Augie’s on Wednesday, from left: Director of Student Involvement Allison Pukala, seniors Marissa DePaolo, Schuyler Watkins, Tony Brunco, Cassandra Moniz, Hannah Farrell, Neha Patel, PengCheng Wan, Bridget Gilroy, council adviser Kathy Vaillancourt and Director of Media Instructional Services Kevin Salemme, who shot Day’s first portfolio photo in the late 1990s

Becoming Selene:



Student Shares Her Story of Gender Transformation

Karamarie Joyce ’15
Editor in Chief

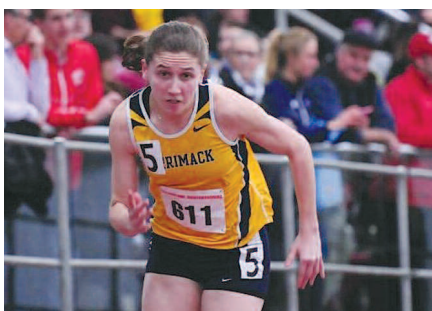
Selene Cummings, a senior studying biology, is the first transgender person to be open about her gender at Merrimack. Over the past few years she has been through several changes both physically and mentally.

I sat down with her to learn more about the changes taking place in her life, and see how these changes affect her as well as the Merrimack community.

Q: When did you begin to feel that you were female and not male?

A: I first started to feel that I was more female than male after I left my first school; I was going through the same thing most people go through, which is trying to figure out who you are. For a long time I had been questioning if I even existed, it got the point where I had to re-build myself from the ground up. Part of the building process was questioning everything, including gender, I realized even from middle school I was questioning myself, thinking “If I were a girl life would be easier.” I was thinking that at the time because I was looking at this group of

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as rookie
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energy, concerns
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Questions on the Quad

By CJ Flannery '14

What do you think of Charlie Day speaking at graduation?



Patrick Bradley '14
"I'm not an 'Always Sunny' fan but he's funny, so it should be good."



Sarah Whooley '14
"It's really exciting: a Merrimack alum who became successful."



Matt O'Neil '14
"That's who it is? That's fantastic!"



Tony Brunco '14
"I'm really excited. Getting someone this big does wonders for the school."



Laura Martinez '14
"Who is that? Is that the guy in 'Horrible Bosses'?"

Police Log

March 28, 8 a.m. A banner from the Warrior Den was removed due to inappropriate writing.	Three non-student males placed in custody and transported to Andover Police Department.
March 29, 12:47 a.m. Report of fight area; clear upon arrival	March 30, 1:31 a.m. Two non-students placed in custody and transported to North Andover Police Department. Owner's vehicle towed.
March 29, 12:50 a.m.	

Mack Tweets

Chris Tierney @CTierney2391
The fact that Charlie Day is our commencement speaker gives me that much more motivation to graduate #itsalwayssunnyatmerrimack #Senoritis

Lauren Rae @LRaeBeach
I just crushed the 9 year old boy I babysit in a 1-on-1 basketball tourney. Musta been my chucks.

\$amwaitforitnovicki @sammyfootball_
I would love to be Tom and Gisele's au pair I wonder if they're taking applications

Leah Kelly @_lkelly16
Sorry to all my professors, I can't come to class because I'm still hungover from spring break

DeWingurt @dewingurt
I think dominos is going to get a restraining order on me

Colin Hay @50ShadesOf_CHAY
i am enjoying my last two months of college by celebrating in every way, shape and form possible

Dara Hayes @DaraHayes
No one can forget there first Big Mac #fact



By Lance Hill



Forty Experience Pellegrinaggio

James Sardella '15
Staff Writer

About 40 Merrimack students and faculty members got to travel to Italy thanks to the Pellegrinaggio in Italia: In Search of Augustinian Community course offered here at Merrimack.

The trip is a 10-day experience over the course of Spring Break, during which the group travels to Augustinian Italy and follow the footsteps of St. Augustine, led by Father Jim Wenzel.

In order to get an idea of the trip, Matt Wilson '15 offered to share his experiences.

Wilson explained that this is not just some Spring Break trip to Italy for fun, but rather, "It is an opportunity to travel while learning about a figure that is central to our college. You get a once in a lifetime experience while also having fun," he said.

Due to the extremely limited number of students who can attend this trip, students must fill out an application and then be interviewed before being

selected for this experience. For those who are selected they must attend a class once a month, between September and February.

Classes generally last from two and a half hours to three hours and in these classes the students learn about St. Augustine's life and the importance and relevance of all the places that they are going to visit in Italy.

When asked what the main purpose behind this trip is, Wilson said, "Well, it is a spiritual experience. You get to experience an entirely new culture filled with places you have never seen and people you have never met and as you learn about St. Augustine while following his footsteps, you begin to reflect on your own life and your own footsteps."

"The best part was going to the incredible places and experiencing their wonder with the unique perspective that is only available through this trip," said Wilson. "Father Jim has a lot of connections with the other Augustinians in Italy and it helped create a better feeling for everything."

The Pellegrinaggio in Italia course satisfies the second institutional requirement in religious and theological studies and counts as a credited course for the semester.

If you are interested in receiving more information about the Pellegrinaggio trip then stop by the Office of International Programs and speak to one of the two study abroad advisors, Kathy Vaillancourt and Jessica Walsh.



School News

Alternative Spring Break Students Offer Service at Four U.S. Locations

Mary Unis '14
Staff Writer

While most college kids around the country were binge drinking in the tropics during their spring break; a select number of Merrimack students were participating in Merrimack's Alternative Spring Break service trips.

Merrimack's Campus Ministry creates service opportunities for students to participate in during their weeklong spring break in March, each year. This year, selected participants were sent to different areas around the country to give back during their time off.

Each of the five locations had two student leaders that were responsible for coordinating schedules and plans on a daily basis throughout the trip.

Merrimack students Millie Boye and Amanda Ryan served as leaders during their trip to the Bronx, where they performed homeless and interpersonal outreach. Erin Shellene and Madison Ward led their group to Camden, N.J., to engage in social work to those in need while Mike McGee and Christine Neel traveled to Baltimore, Md., for homeless outreach. Anthony Baccini and Alexis Johnston participated in Habitat for Humanity in Greenbriar County. Annie McDonnell and Theresa Walsh led the last group as they travelled to Vanceburg, Ky., to work with Glenmary Farms: ministry of presence and physical service work.

It was at Glenmary Farms in Ken-

tucky where Annie McDonnell was completely immersed in the culture of the local area. They took the term "simple living" quite literally when they were stripped of their mobile phones and sources of time so they would be completely dedicated to the trip.

McDonnell and the rest of the Merrimack students enjoyed every second of their week away from their technology driven reality's as they made sure to respect the resources that so many of us take for granted everyday.

McDonnell explains, "We limited our showers to no more than twice during the week, we didn't wear make-up, and we didn't shave. We were very conscious of our portion-control throughout the week and during different meals; and in addition to the service we participated in throughout the week, we also had 'farm duties' to take care of on the farm."

By day they volunteered in construction or served in local food pantries and by night they travelled to local hot spots such as "Thurman Brothers" who served as a family-style band that played country/bluegrass music in their garage where they were able to dance and sing along. McDonnell's experience was everything she could have hoped for in an Alternative Spring Break trip and more.

If service interests you, please visit the Campus Ministry office located on the third floor of the Sakowich Center.

Presidential Bug Bacteriophage Named 'Hokey'

Ashley Yenick '14
Copy Editor

On March 3, a group of Merrimack students found a new bacteriophage in a muddy tire track sample found on campus: Hokey, named after, you guessed it, Merrimack's very own President Christopher Hokey.

Professor Janine LeBlanc led the team of students from her HMMI SEA Phages who discovered the bacteriophage. "A bacteriophage is a virus that infects bacteria. The word 'phage' in Greek means 'to eat,'" she said.

The students who participated in the were Anthony Preston, Allison Langone (Honor), Gwendolyn Vasquez, Miranda Gagnon (Honors), Michael DiVito, Joshua Gallant, Daniel Gomez, Julie Joyce, Emilee MacLean, and Nicholas Flaherty (TA).

"Hokey" was sent to the Pittsburgh Bacteriophage Institute for sequencing. Last year, LeBlanc applied to be a member of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute as a part of the Science Education Alliance (SEA). The course is sponsored by Howard Hughes Medical Institute and held in the Center for Biotechnology and Biomedical Sciences.

As a part of the HHMI SEA Phages course, students collect samples of soil in different areas around Merrimack's campus. Since finding the Hokey bacteriophage, students found more phages that they've been researching. LeBlanc said the Hokey Phage is sequenced with 75,586 base pairs of DNA.

Drink Company Boosts Energy, Concerns

Elizabeth Fitzgerald
Staff Writer '15

The company Vemma, and its product line including the energy drink Verve, has been sweeping through Merrimack’s campus lately.

It’s not so much about the selling of the product, but rather about students investing their time and money in becoming part of the Vemma team. These students have high hopes that they will not only make their investment back, but will also get enough people join their team so they will be making thousands of dollars in a short amount of time.

The company and its process has had mixed reviews and has stirred up a bit of controversy on campus recently.

Students begin their Vemma journey paying \$500, essentially to buy themselves into the company. They then become an official Vemma affiliate. After that, the task seems quite simple; try to get as many people to join one’s teams as possible.

The brand rewards people who promote Vemma brand products, and is built on a two-team-building process. It works in a pyramid structure (however it is not a pyramid scheme, because that is generally illegal). Each person builds on to his or her team, and as the teams grow, he or she will make more and more money from it.

Company founder and CEO BK Boreyko explains on the Vemma website that “our mission is to help others by enhancing their well-being,

and offering an income stream to people who introduce others to a product line they believe in.”

The affiliates and those who are part of teams are not getting paid to sell the product. Rather their job description is just to spread the word as walking advertisements, and to get people to join their teams. Vemma relies heavily on its teams for advertising. Vemma/Verve takes a different route than other energy drinks such as Red Bull or Monster, which have commercials and displays at grocery and convenience stores; Vemma products are sold only online.

Junior Ashley Medeiros, a member of the Vemma team, expressed how much of an opportunity this has been for her.

“It’s just an opportunity in for people in our generation to do something differently. We want to take matters into our own hand and live the lives that we want to live,” she said. “We work for ourselves and help each other get to the top. It’s a business of people helping people.”

Other students who are involved on campus said they feel a similar way and have been pretty persuasive in getting people involved and talking about the energy drink.

Parents and faculty seem to have more of a concern with the business that is taking place on campus, and don’t seem too happy with it.

Donna Swartwout, the dean of Ccampus life, released the following statement: “There have been a number of parent complaints and concerns about the energy drink Verve. Parents are worried that their sons and daughters don’t fully



understand the financial investment involved. Parents are concerned that academics/classes are taking a back seat to this business venture. As with any job opportunity, we have encouraged students to talk with the O’Brien Center staff to be fully informed. I would caution all students to remember that running a business from your residence hall room or any space/room on campus is against the college’s policies.”

Seniors

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T E W M P I V A F E P P E W R X M G O I
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BEACON
CHARLIE
GRADUATION
PADDYS
SENIORS
TWENTYFOURTEEN
BOSTON
DIPLOMA
HOPEY

PARTY
SPRING
WEEKEND
CAP
GOWN
SENIORITIS
JOBS
SPRINGAPALOOZA

Joke of the Week

Two men were digging a ditch on a very hot day. One said to the other, “Why are we down in this hole digging a ditch when our boss is standing up there in the shade of a tree?”

“I don’t know,” responded the other. “I’ll ask him.”

So he climbed out of the hole and went to his boss. “Why are we digging in the hot sun and you’re standing in the shade?”

“Intelligence,” the boss said.

“What do you mean, ‘intelligence?’”

The boss said, “Well, I’ll show you. I’ll put my hand on this tree and I want you to hit it with your fist as hard as you can.”

The ditch digger took a mighty swing and tried to hit the boss’ hand. The boss removed his hand and the ditch digger hit the tree.

The boss said, “That’s intelligence!”

The ditch digger went back to his hole. His friend asked, “What did he say?”

“He said we are down here because of intelligence.”

“What’s intelligence?” said the friend.

The ditch digger put his hand on his face and said, “I’ll show you. Take your shovel and hit my hand...”

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MOST INTERESTING PERSON

Tim O’Leary

Lauren Foster ’15
Staff Writer

If you’ve ever walked into O’Brien Hall on a weekend night, chances are this guy has asked to see your mackcard a few times. No, it’s not Mitt Romney, but rather the SRA of O’Brien, Tim O’Leary.

Last year’s recipient of The Ronald Reagan Memorial Award for “Worst Poker Face”, a superlative from the Student Government Association (SGA), is often complimented for his dreamy eyes, which are admired best, and most awkwardly, from close up. “Compliments on my butt are always weird, too,” he said.

Along with his fashionable style, he is also known for his impersonations. Whether it’s a celebrity, politician, or public figure, nothing is off-limits for him: “I’m told I have a mean Bill Clinton impersonation.”

Most students choose to come to Merrimack, but Merrimack chose O’Leary to come here. “I love the people, I love the mission, I love the community.” Many members of the community have lined up to shake his hand, as he is the SGA

Treasurer and quickly makes friends on campus.

When he’s not making duty rounds on the weekend or working on budgets, Tim likes to venture around campus and camp out on the third floor of the Sakowich Campus Center—which is much safer than the camping trip to Canada where he used his scout skills to avoid being attacked by a bear, a story he will gladly tell to anyone who asks.

Most people like to play on the safe side, but not Tim. “If you’re not living on the edge, you’re taking up too much space.

Although many college students are not sure of what they would like to do after walking across the graduation stage, Tim does, but it can change like the unpredictable weather this spring. “One day I want to be Olivia Pope, the next day Robert Kraft, maybe the pilot of Air Force One, it changes every day. I’m weighing my options. I might dabble with Hollywood ...



We’ll see.”

One thing O’Leary is sure of is his ability to give endless advice. What advice would he give students on campus? “You gotta give it your best, laugh often, look for the solution, not the problem. You’re in the good ole days now, make a power move as much as possible, don’t interrupt anyone’s interview for Most Interesting Person.”

Often times the resemblance to fictional TV characters Jay Pritchett of “Modern Family” and Frank Underwood of “House of Cards” is evident. “But if I’m doing my job right, you’ll think I’m Jay.”

What about a theme song for himself? “‘That’s Life’ by Frank Sinatra, because this world keeps on spinning around. You gotta pick yourself up and get back in the race.”

Lastly, what can we expect from Tim this semester? “A shot at the SGA presidency, if I am fortunate enough to be nominated.” He’ll also be making his acting debut in “Arrive Alive,” a drunk-driving accident reenactment on April 15th at 4pm in the Deegan West Lot. “Most importantly, I’ve got to continue to keep the peace in O’Brien on duty.”

Becoming Selene: Explaining Gender Transformation

SELENE
Continued from Page 1

girls, and they all seemed to be friends and get along, and at the time I had very few friends. I always seemed to get along better with the girls. That was the first time I ever really thought about gender. Men and women are basically the same to me, they’re just people. Since that point forward I questioned my own gender, my biological gender didn’t seem to matter as much as my mental gender.

Q: Who was the first person you expressed what you were feeling to?

A: That person was Elizabeth Harvey; she is my best friend. When I came out to her she said, “Honey, I know.” We went on to talk about how she knew, and she said she had noticed when I began to grow out my hair, and how I acted much differently than most 21-year-old guys. She assured me I was completely accepted and loved.

Q: What was the next step you made after coming out to Elizabeth?

A: I came out to my mother next on Christmas Eve -- poor timing, but I just couldn’t hold it in any longer. She was quiet for a moment and then very calmly said, “I will always love you.” We kept it from my father for about a month; in that time I told my sisters. Their reaction was complete indifference. They assured me if I were a guy or a girl I’d still be their sibling and they supported me. My father was a little bit more difficult. We didn’t talk for a little while after I told him because he felt like he was losing a son. He came around eventually, especially after I spoke to his mother, my grandmother, about it. As the matriarch of the family, my grandmother’s acceptance set the tone for the rest of my family to follow.

Q: What was the first step in the process of changing your gender

from male to female?

A: The first step for anyone going through this is to find a therapist. I found one and the process began to make sure I wasn’t making a mistake, and that I wasn’t, for example, a cross-dresser, which is a man who likes women’s clothes, but rather it was the issue of being one gender physically and another on the inside. After going to therapy for some time I was connected with a transgender doctor who prescribed me estrogen pills to begin my transformation.

Q: What effects did the estrogen pills have on you?

A: The most notable effect was the change in my emotions; they became much more intense once I began taking the pills. That took a long time to work out -- because of the intense emotions I was feeling my doctor had to slowly increase the doses she was prescribing me. Other changes which took place over time were the softening of the skin and hair, and growth of breast tissue. Scientifically, adding the estrogen to my body made my brain suppress the production of testosterone.

Q: What was your birth name?

A: My birth name was Joseph Ryan Cummings. I legally changed my name to Selene Cummings.

Q: How did the school respond to your arrival?

A: They had a very positive response. Once they realized I was transgender, many of the faculty went to see Gordene Mackenzie, a teacher who has done much of her research on transgender people. My advisers were still a bit wary and so were the Residence Life faculty, but after a few meetings most people got used to me. Res Life was particularly accommodating, allowing me to room with other women, and at my suggestion, as long as my roommate knew what they were getting into. Some of the most accepting people on campus have in fact been

the monks, which was my largest concern. In fact I now feel more comfortable with them than the general student body.

Q: Have you run into any harassment?

A: I have only on a few occasions. New England is very accepting of the LGBT community compared to most places in the world. The only problem I ran into on campus involved a picture of myself and a rude comment taken by a student. When the administration found out about it, the picture was removed from Twitter and the student ended up apologizing to me. The whole incident made me feel more comfortable because it made me feel that the school would protect me if I ran into any more trouble in the future.

Q: What is the most difficult thing about transitioning?

A: In many ways, you are free to act like yourself, and look like what you want to look like when you begin to transition. Learning to walk with a sway in my hips has been fun, the clothes are so much nicer, and makeup is turning into one of my hobbies. For many male to female transgenders, removing facial hair and changing our voices is very difficult and takes a lot of time. Hormones take care of that when you're a transitioning female to male.

Q: Why did you pick Merrimack, did you think it would be accepting?

A: Honestly I wasn’t sure about Merrimack College at first. It is advertised as a Christian school, not the most accepting bunch. They also don’t advertise their social diversity or acceptance that Augustinians in particular have toward the rest of the world and other ideas. The monks ended up being one of the most accepting bunch and the ones I’ve spoken with tend to greet me when we see each other around.

Q: Why did you decide to leave

your old school and attend Merrimack?

A: I left Hesser College in order to study biology. They just didn't have the facilities to teach it and I had heard that Merrimack College had a good biology program. It was as simple as that.

Q: Are you attracted to men or women or both?

A: I’m actually pansexual. No, that doesn't mean that I’m attracted to frying pans. It means that gender has little to no meaning to me when I’m looking at a possible partner. This includes people who don’t identify as male or female. I do have other preferences though, so it also doesn’t mean that I'm just attracted to everyone. I still find confidence in one’s self, an intellectual mind and a healthy lifestyle very appealing.

Q: Are you involved in any campus activities?

A: I spend a lot of my time in the Media Center, one of the most accepting hangouts I’ve run across is in that office. From time to time I drop in with the GSA (Gay Straight Alliance), but I’m not one for being in a group or having a large friend base. I spoke in a panel the last time Merrimack hosted Social justice week and I make myself an open resource for anyone who wants to ask questions in a respectful manner.

Q: Are you in contact in any other people going through this transition? Are there support groups?

A: I do know a few people like myself. My primary physician is actually a male to female individual, which has helped a lot, as you might imagine. There is also a friend I have that doesn’t feel like they can transition because they would be rejected by their family. It makes sense to me; it’s quite frightening to put yourself in such a vulnerable position. I just try to be supportive and my friends are the same way with me.

‘Orange’ Author: Prisons Need Reform

Schuyler Watkins ’14
Associate Editor-in-Chief

In just two short months, the Netflix original show “Orange is the New Black,” will air its second season, picking up where it left off: with Piper Chapman, an upper-middle-class, white female and her fate in an all woman’s prison.

Prior to its premiere, last week the Merrimack community met the real Piper behind the survival comedy, Piper Kerman.

During a question and answer session, followed by Kerman’s lecture, students, faculty and members of the area community discovered the truth behind the “Orange is the New Black” series, Piper’s memoir with the same name, and Kerman’s experience at the Federal Correctional Facility in Danbury, Conn., which inmates who have been convicted of charges related to murder, drugs, and in Kerman’s case, money laundering.

Those who attended Kerman’s lecture in the MPR of the Sakowich Center heard more than just a tell-all of her experience in prison. She clinched the attention of the room, discussing the real issue with her situation — the dehumanizing and immoral system which throws people into American prisons daily. Supporting her statement with unimaginable numbers, Kerman explained, “200,000 women are in jail today, two-thirds of which are there for non-violent offenses.”

Kerman, an active member of the Women’s Prison Association, continued to explain her concerns with America’s prison system, including a fact that shows an 800 percent increase in incarcerated women since 1980. It became clear that Kerman’s mission for these lectures is to educate those who are unfamiliar with the prison system, as she was when she entered Danbury.

Kerman brought up her largest issues with the system, and that was race, gender, and the hierarchy of wealth in our society. She said, “My book is framed as a fish out of water story because no one expects an upper-middle-class white woman to go to prison, which is a funny thing given we invest so much in creating the institution of prison, and if they

aren’t intended for upper-middle-class white women, then who are they intended for?

“I’d suggest if you were a young man of color from a poor neighborhood you would not necessarily have the opportunity to write a fish out of water memoir like mine because many people would not be at all surprised that you were in prison, and I think that is tragic and a societal flaw and issue we should look at,” she said.

Kerman said African-Americans are four times more likely to get arrested for smoking marijuana, when, “let’s face it, white people smoke just as much pot.”



Faces of Junior Formal



‘Blue Jasmine’ Exposes Inner Poverty

Roger McCormack ’14
Staff Writer

“Blue Jasmine,” Woody Allen’s latest film, for which Cate Blanchett recently garnered an Oscar for best supporting actress, cleverly anatomizes modern American society. Exploring themes of class and manners, the film stands as a worthy addition to Allen’s venerable oeuvre.

The film charts the story of a déclassé socialite, Jasmine, played by Blanchett. Her cheating husband Hal (Alec Baldwin) has recently run afoul of the law through engaging in business pursuits that are dubious at best. Fraudulence leads to a prison sentence, followed swiftly by suicide.

Jasmine has lost the wealth and cachet her husband provided, including manors and elegant fashion. Moving in with her working-class sister Ginger, played by the comely Sally Hawkins, places Jasmine in a more plebeian world. Nothing provoking more resentment than a bourgeoisie fall from grace, Jasmine attempts no adulteration of the contempt in which she holds her sister, her life, and her choice of partners. Jasmine’s character and values come out with clarity when her sister asks Jasmine how she can be broke, since she has come packing Louis Vuitton luggage and a Chanel suit. Jasmine can only respond with perplexity to the question; indeed, with horror, as these brands constitute the core of her existence. Like Mrs. Bucket (bouquet) on Masterpiece Theater’s “Keeping Up with Appearances,” Jasmine’s real name is Jenet.

Allen’s skills come to life in his witty contrast of upper- and lower-class life. Rather than adopt the orthodox liberal view of a virtuous — both spiritually and materially — underclass, Allen pitilessly evokes a world of cheap pleasures and violent, albeit passionate and devoted, men. Ginger, though young, is divorced, and has taken up with a new suitor only nominally different from her former husband.

The film relates Jasmine’s previous life with her husband Hal through a series of flashbacks, indicating that, though inordinately prosperous, malaise and discord also abounded in the couple’s life, nay, were a very part of their prosperity. Ginger’s later generosity in taking Jasmine in is effectively contrasted with the disdain in which Jasmine holds her sister and then- brother-in-law, Augie, when they had come to visit. Loathing her time with Ginger, flashback-Jasmine confides to Hal that she looks forward to the exit of her unfashionable sister. Bereft of any devotion to family — but, not, of course, when she is in dire need — Jasmine’s days consist of shopping and lunches with affluent friends, followed by soirees

at the couple’s palatial manor. Predictably, Jasmine’s interior life is impoverished, with no real culture or solidarity to sustain a flourishing existence. Her existence with Hal depicts the superficial values of the family. Engaging in what Heidegger called “idle talk,” Jasmine is also easily placated by baubles and jewels from Hal, reflecting the profound depths of chauvinism and patriarchalism that masochistically enliven her. Allen raises a pointed question: Is wealth a true arbiter of class and moral values? The answer is clearly no — at least wealth unaccompanied by a broader set of commitments, both ethically and culturally.

Thus, the superficial differences between Ginger and Jasmine are soon exploded by the arc of the film. Jasmine gives thought to going back to school, which she says she had dropped out to marry Hal, but her rhetoric arouses a correct posture of skepticism. Unable to find the vigor to accomplish the task of completing her degree, Jasmine goes to work as a secretary in a doctor’s office, to diminishing returns. She is incompetent and when her boss makes overtures in the office, the results are disastrous, leading Jasmine to leave the job.

In a flashback, Hal’s many brazen infidelities are revealed, with Ginger witnessing Hal taking a woman out to lunch in Manhattan. She debates with her husband whether she should tell Jasmine — a dialogue loaded with ambiguity, recognizing the perils of the situation. Jasmine eventually learns of Hal philandering from another friend, and is predictably shocked. Rather than depict Jasmine as a cuckolded lover, without a clue, Allen instead portrays Jasmine’s boundless skills of self-deception.

While Allen directs barbs at typical targets — wealth, bourgeois values, material-

ism — the clichéd liberal/progressive solutions he offers in so many of his films are nowhere to be found in “Blue Jasmine.” The principal antagonists in the pantheon of Allen’s films, from “Annie Hall” to “Midnight in Paris,” have typically been of a conservative ethos. Whether the purported anti-Semitism Allen finds in Diane Keaton’s hick family in “Annie Hall,” to the right-wingers of “Midnight in Paris,” foiling and heaping ordure on protagonist Owen Wilson’s dreams to be a writer in Paris, Allen’s cultural criticisms have mainly emanated from the left. How pleasing than, to see him dig a bit deeper in “Blue Jasmine,” reflecting profound questions about culture, morals and values that cannot be legislated away.

While a move to the right would be the most unexpected of Allen’s many career metamorphoses, the implications of “Blue Jasmine” demonstrate that it is never too late to transition to the dark side of the political spectrum.



Neeson Takes Flight in ‘Non-Stop’ Thriller

Bridget Gilroy, ’14
Staff Writer

“Non-Stop” is an action-packed thriller starring none other than Liam Neeson.

In recent years, Neeson has become known as a leader in the action movie world starring in movies like “Taken” and “Taken 2.” “Non-Stop,” Neeson’s newest movie, is no exception.

Neeson plays Bill Marks, an air marshal who is aboard a transatlantic flight when he receives threatening text messages from a passenger aboard. The anonymous texter threatens to kill a passenger every 20 minutes. In order for Marks (Neeson) to prevent it, the texter demands \$150 million be deposited into an account.

Marks informs TSA about the situation and they look up whose name the account is under. In the meantime, Marks scopes out the plane and tries to figure out who the person on the other end of the phone could be.

With technology as ubiquitous as it is today, practically every person has some

form of communication device. TSA reports back to Marks that the account number he gave them is under his own name.

Marks realizes he is now being framed and with that the 20 minutes wind down and sure enough — a passenger dies. As time passes, the texter keeps true to the promise of a passenger dying every 20 minutes.

With his passengers clearly in grave danger and TSA suspicious of Marks hijacking the plane, Marks starts going off on passengers in a desperate attempt to find the culprit.

This movie will keep you guessing and will have you on the edge of your seat right up until the end. It does have some soft moments, including ones in which Marks consoles a young girl who is traveling alone in the midst of the chaos in the cabin.

By the time you figure out the culprit or maybe culprits, you will have your own mental list of passengers who are possible suspects. Want to know who it is? Go see “Non-Stop” before it departs theaters.

Sodexo on Call

Matthew Kent ’15
Staff Writer

Last week, Sodexo took a big step in an effort to improve the food at Sparky’s, by getting to know what the students want in real time.

A phone number connecting students directly to the manager on duty is now located on the side of many of the napkin holders on the tables in Sparky’s.

Whether a shortage of napkins or a request for something different is the concern, students now have a direct method of communication to management.

Sodexo is reaching out to students in an effort to find out more of what they would like to see in the campus dining hall.

With the phone number, is now much easier for students to be heard regarding what types of foods, condiments, or changes they would like to see more of. When you come across an idea for improving the food in Sparky’s, simply shoot out a text to 978-387-3514 and management has promised to do its best to make it happen.

After speaking with several students who have utilized the service, it seems to be going well so far and Sparky’s is doing its best to accommodate student’s requests.

As long as good ideas keep coming through, the number will stay available, Sodexo promised.

Arts Abound at Rogers Center

Choiwing Kong '16
Staff Writer

The Rogers Center is the performing arts center at Merrimack that holds events for fine arts programs, such as drama and music.

On the website of The Rogers Center, it says, “At the Rogers Center for the Arts, we are dedicated to making life as flavorful as possible, with season after season of varied and exciting programming. Our mission is to provide a stimulating, artistic, and educational environment that supports the creation of both visual and performing arts, enriching the cultural fabric of Merrimack College and the Merrimack Valley communities.”

The Rogers is located opposite to Deegan Hall and next to three parking lots at Merrimack.

Within the Rogers Center, there is a gallery called McCoy Gallery, which presents beautiful art pieces continuously and free for everyone to



walk in and enjoy. Next to the gallery, is an auditorium for drama and music. The webpage will have the most updated information: www.merrimack.edu/community/rogers/.

The information on the website consists of listed events that are going to be shown in

Rogers Center. Visitors can also claim tickets via website, by phone, by mail or in person in Box Office in the entrance of Rogers Center. The site also shows the discounts that available for different types of people such as Merrimack faculty members, students, and group rates

In April, there are five events are going to take place in The Rogers Center: “Tartuffe,” “Monty Python’s Spamalot,” “An Evening of Jazz,” Andover Choral Society’s Spring Performance and a showing of the classic film “Moby Dick.” Some of the shows are presented by Merrimack students and faculty members as part of the Onstagers group. The remaining shows are performed by off-campus groups.

The shows at the Rogers Center are special because Merrimack College as well as the surrounding community invest a lot of time to organize and pick the best shows for people the watch and enjoy their nights.

Farce OnStage with ‘Tartuffe’

By Kali Tudisco '15
Staff Writer

This weekend, pants will be dropped, screaming tantrums will be thrown and young people will experiment with drugs – and it’s all happening onstage at the OnStagers’ performance of Molière’s Tartuffe, a French comedy which is over 450 years old but will be receiving a much more modern treatment at the Onstager’s performance.

Orgon (David Lemay), the head of a wealthy family, has fallen completely under the spell of Tartuffe (Mike Semonelli). Orgon believes that Tartuffe is a saintly and pious man who can teach the whole family how to be exemplary Christians, and he invites Tartuffe to live in his house. The problem is Tartuffe is a fraud, a hypocrite, and an extremely unpleasant person – a fact that is glaringly apparent to everybody except Orgon himself! Orgon’s family is thrown into turmoil, but he still refuses to believe that Tartuffe could have done anything wrong until he’s seen it with his own eyes. Fortunately, Orgon’s clever wife, Elmire (Meaghan Looney) is willing to arrange for that situation...

Thanks to the vision of assistant director Kevin Welch, this production of the play is set in Boston in 1968, with a distinctive twist that reflects the time period: instead of a fraudulent Catholic holy man, Tartuffe is portrayed in this version as a faux Hindu yogi. In the late 1960s, after the Beatles had made their famous trip to India and popularized yoga and meditation in the Western world, many Americans were drawn to gurus who could help them improve their spiritual lives.

Though the play is a comedy and the supposedly Hindu characters are frauds, the directors have been careful to ensure that Hinduism is simply

a framing device for the show’s natural humor, rather than the punch line of it. “Our intention is not to mock other cultural and religious traditions,” explains director Kathleen Sills. “Instead, we seek to poke fun at Orgon’s blind devotion to a man who is not what he seems.”

As the play is a farce, the moments of comedy are hilariously overblown and very physical as well, with nonstop action and several truly shocking and ambitious moments. “The appeal stems from the play’s universal themes and the fact that from the beginning of the piece, we are in on the joke, which instead of spoiling the fun, only adds to it,” says Sills.

Tartuffe will be playing at the Rogers Center for the Arts at 7:30 p.m. on April 3, 4 and 5, with a 2 p.m. matinee on April 5. General admission is \$10, but tickets are only \$5 at the door for students!



Spring Concert Crowns Hard Work by MPB

Lauren Foster '15
Staff Writer

When you walk in to Lawler Arena for spring concert it can be easy to assume that the rink was converted into a concert arena by professionals. In reality, the Merrimack Programming Board (MPB) transforms the rink within just 48 hours, although planning begins months beforehand.

In September, students were polled as to which genre they would like to see. Unfortunately, not a large percent of students took advantage of this opportunity, as only 200 completed the survey. It was sent out multiple times via the What’s Up e-mail.

“It’s a very lengthy process of trying to find an act that is in our price range that is also in the type of genre that students are interested in. The concert choice has to coincide with the college’s mission and values as well,” said Tyler McCarthy, MPB’s president.

Students were polled in a recent Beacon edition asking which artists they would like to have come for spring concert. Some responses given were Drake, Luke Bryan, and the Rascal Flatts all of which are outside of the spring concert budget and are artists who do not perform on college campuses.

This year’s artists are a co-headlining act: the up-and-coming duo, A Great Big World, and the well-known group, Plain White T’s. Prior to both acts performing, there will be a DJ opening. Having three separate talents is something that Merrimack has never had before.

So how is the artist chosen? After the surveys are collected, the concert committee consisting of two co-chairs, MPB’s president and advisor, and OSI’s grad fellow meets with a middle-agent and discusses which artists of that genre are within the concert’s budget, among other requirements.

Although some students seem to be disappointed, MPB still managed to break the record of most tickets sold at a reveal event this year.

When someone talks about “Merrimack” planning the spring concert, whether it be negative or positive, they assume it is professional staff members who put it on, but it is an event planned by their peers.

“I know how hard MPB works on providing a concert for the Merrimack community,” commented Donna Swartwout, dean of campus life. “Having two co-headlining acts is pretty amazing.”

It is true that “Hey There Delilah” was released in 2005, but the Plain White T’s have continued to release music since, including three new albums. With a record coming out later this

year, students can expect them to perform previews from their yet-to-be-released album.

The Plain White T’s are currently headlining the NHL Stadium Series while A Great Big World’s “Say Something” was certified double platinum and sold over three million copies as of February in the United States alone.

Rose Dolan, assistant director of student involvement stated, “A Great Big World is an up-and-coming band that has received a lot of positive media and has been featured on many award and television shows.”

Although MPB’s Springapalooza, as well as Relay for Life, have a throwback theme this year, it is hard to call the spring concert a blast from the past, as A Great Big World is new to the scene and Plain White T’s continues to produce new music.

“I know the concert (and Springapalooza weekend) is going to be a success!” said Swartwout.

Matt O’Neil, a co-chair of the concert stated, “Spring Concert has been my life at Merrimack every since I was a freshman and no matter who comes it is always the greatest event of the year.”

As the curtain closes and students leave the arena bound for other spring weekend festivities, it is the MPB members that will be there taking down what led to a concert we will all remember.

The writer is concert co-chair of MPB.

Housing Lottery: Hit or Miss?

Brendan Doherty '15
Staff Writer

The housing lottery can be a bloodbath, and with the ability to carry over the housing assigned during the current semester to the next year, housing selection can become more and more limited.

In the past couple of years Merrimack has shifted its focus of housing to be less focused on seniority and more focused on liberty for all students (underclassmen to upperclassmen) in the housing selection.

In the past, students were on a very linear path with housing. If you were an incoming freshman you lived in the Deegans and Ash; sophomores lived in Monican and the Town-

houses; and juniors and seniors were given the option of O'Brien (the former Santagati) and the Apartments. This was expected with few exceptions. Along with this process was a sense of paying your dues as an underclassman.

According to res life the new residence halls are in high demand for renewal and specialty housing. Many students were unaware of the ability to renew their housing for next year or even that there was a deadline for renewal. The reminder e-mail came during one of the busiest weeks of the semester, the week before spring break. Naturally students missed the deadline and were advised to apply for specialty housing.

But with the high demand of the new res halls before the housing lottery even starts, how many rooms will actually be available for the lottery?

That number is undisclosed, but we are assured that there must be turnover in the halls. That being said, the Honors freshman this year who were given top tier housing on campus now have the ability to keep it for the duration of their time at Merrimack College.

Meanwhile, juniors and seniors struggle to even find an opening for them to live in the housing they desire.

This past year housing has shifted dramatically. Freshman are scattered throughout the campus, sophomores living in what used to be considered "freshman dorms" and upperclassmen have first pick of whatever isn't already given away before the lottery begins.

Housing selection was certainly in need of a restructure, but instead the structure was taken away and turned to chaos.

Explaining the Phenomenon of Bitcoin

Vince Bellino '15
Financial Editor:
Nicole Morrissey '14
Staff Writer

Bitcoin is a proliferating virtual currency used as a means of anonymous peer to peer transactions. It operates through a decentralized network, which implies that there is no authoritative oversight by a central bank.

Therefore, bitcoin is not considered to be a fiat currency (i.e. dollar or euro) because it has not been declared to be a legal tender of ex-

change.

One may use the currency to buy merchandise or as an investment looking for capital appreciation. It allows for easy international transferability through mobile applications and minimal associated costs because bitcoins are not held in a bank or subject to fiat currency regulations.

Bitcoins are traded on a various exchanges, like equities on the NASDAQ or NYSE. Mt. Gox was a Japanese-based exchange that handled around 70 percent of all Bitcoin transactions on global

basis. On February 7, the exchange filed for bankruptcy protection because they allegedly lost nearly half a billion dollars' worth of bitcoins due to hackers. The currency nearly lost 25 percent of its value in one day based on this prevailing news.

So, would you want to own this virtual currency?

An individual's bitcoins are stored in a "digital wallet," which is secured in cloud storage or on one's computer. Although "secured" in the cloud, they are not FDIC-insured like U.S. bank accounts.

The anonymity of bitcoins also puts into question the potential for illegal drug trafficking and money laundering.

Transactions are recorded in a public log, but the only identification is that of one's wallet ID.

So, the opaqueness of transactions may lead to continued pessimism about the ability to harness the potential for virtual currencies. Bitcoin is clearly in its developmental stages, but if the government can conceive of ways to regulate and tax it, we may dispense with paper money.

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'Team 30' Poised for Great Season

Lance Hill '15
Staff Writer

Double plays, fastballs, pinch hitters, and home runs. We're not talking about baseball; Merrimack softball will be like no other this season.

With the adoption of their new inspiration of "Team 30" these Warriors are fine-tuning all their skills and working overtime to become a top contender in the NE-10 Conference.

Their record overall is 8-11, but the team's recent performance does not justify their record. They have been getting after it in both practice and their past competitions. Junior catcher Jennifer Post and junior outfielder Courtney Ulak gave their feedback on the team, their performance so far early in the season and their individual strides and contributions to the team.

Post said, "We have adopted this term of 'Team 30'. It is the 30th year of our program and 802nd win of our program's history and we want to tack on to that. We want people to know that we are a force to be reckoned with and that we are a team that deserves respect in the NE-10.

"Right now we are practicing what we are preaching," she said. "We, as a team, know if there is someone on second base we need to do

whatever we can to mover her over to third or to bring her in, and that is very important and needs to happen from here on out.

"Our coach is very good at making a line up plan paralleling our strengths and weaknesses," she said.

Ulak gave her input on the team and how they perform.



"I honestly think we can take our division in our conference. We gotta be focused and ready to play. You have to be able to accept the fact you might fail and to be ready for the next opportunity. What I really like about the team is that we are very competitive in all aspects on our team. In both practice and inter-squads."



At left, senior shortstop Ashley Perry fields a low ball; above, senior infielder Key Perry at bat.

Men's Lax Successful at Home

Sean Talbot '15
Staff Writer

The No. 8 ranked men's lacrosse team is off to a 5-3 following a thrilling 11-10 win Wednesday afternoon against LIU Post.

All three losses have come against ranked opponents, as the Warriors fell to top ranked and undefeated Le Moyne, in addition to one-goal losses at No. 3 Limestone (then No. 5) and No. 5 Dowling (then ranked No. 6).

Despite three early losses, Merrimack has not lost any home games this year. With a win Wednesday afternoon, the Warriors won their 16th consecutive home game, a streak that dates back to April 19, 2011.

This year's team is looking to thrive under senior and junior leadership. Junior goaltender Moe Green talked about this.

"The team is looking really good. We're young, but have a lot of depth," he said. "Our goal for every season is to win the NE-10 tournament and make the NCAA tournament."

Merrimack is a very good defensive team. Strong defenders like juniors Owen Jarem and Andrew Basler hold it down for defense coach and ground ball enthusiast Ted Biebeu. Merrimack averages 39.29 ground balls per game, the third-highest average in the entire country. The team is determined to win all the smaller battles in order to win the game.

"Coach Biebeu stresses consistency in the way we play," Jarem said.

The Warriors won the ground ball battle again Wednesday (28-23) in their win against LIU Post. All remaining games will come against conference opponents for the Warriors, including three straight on the road. The Warriors' next home match comes Wednesday, April 16 at 7 against St. Anselm.

Trying Year for Women's Lacrosse

Mathew Galvao '17
Staff Writer

This 2014 season for women's lacrosse has been a trying one. With a 2-8 overall record and a 1-6 conference record, the Warriors stand 11th of 13 teams in the NE-10 conference. The Warriors also have played more games than any other conference opponent, meaning they have less time to try and make up lost ground.

With a new head coach in Michael Daly and many freshmen in the lineup it's been a difficult year for the Warriors to rebuild with a new coach and new players. Daly feels that the inexperience and culture change has had an effect on his team's struggles earlier on in the season.

"We graduated a lot of the starting lineup last year and a lot of veteran leadership. It's been kind of remaking the whole team from scratch," Daly said. "The culture change can be difficult. People have been put in roles they haven't really been put in as far as playing more minutes, especially for younger players. That transition takes time and can be stressful and non-successful. Usually when that happens it's going to be messy for a while.

Daly feels that he can see his team progressing offensively and defensively heading into the second half of the season.

"I'm seeing it on both sides of the ball. Our defense is really starting to gel. We threw a lot of defensive structures at them early which is a tall order to ask but we're really starting to see that growth," he said.

Daly is less worried about offense.



Michael Daly is a first year coach at Merrimack after being hired in August. Daly has spent many years coaching at the collegiate level in both the Division I and II ranks.

He started his coaching career at Stonehill College, spending 10 seasons with the Skyhawks and earning a National Championship in 2005.

From 2009-20012 he served as head coach at Division I University of New Hampshire, coaching the program to a No. 13 national ranking.

Daly hopes to instill a hard-working atmosphere and a team first mentality to the team.

"Offense usually comes later, but we are finally starting to get some flow," he explained. "Earlier we weren't scoring enough goals. But offensively and defensively we are starting to click and that's good."

With a young team like Merrimack these growing pains and early struggles should be really beneficial down the road because of the experience the players are getting from it. These trials and tribulations could make the program that much better, and that is what Daly feels could benefit the program in the years to come.

"I think the experience they are getting now as far as on the field and learning a lot, I'm a strategic coach so I throw a lot at them. It's always my philosophy for them to be the smartest players on the field. When you have smarter players on the field that's the edge," he said. "They are going to get so much game experience that by the time next year rolls around I think it's going to make the program much, much better."

Heading into the final third of the season and the rest of the year, Daly hopes that the team just keeps improving, keeps finding their identity on both sides of the ball, and he hopes they find some consistency.

"I'd like to see us continue to find our identity as a team offensively and defensively which I think is coming, and some consistency which I think is coming," Daly explained. "I think we just started to turn that corner of consistency of effort. You have to compete to win."

The Warriors' next game is at American International on Tuesday, April 8, at 4 p.m.

WARRIOR SPOTLIGHT

Jimmy Holland

By Michael Perdie '14
Staff Writer

Jimmy Holland '14 from Billerica, Mass., is four-year starter for the men's lacrosse team. So far this season, Holland has started in all seven games on defense for the Warriors. Holland ranks second on the team in caused turnovers, with six, and is tied for third in groundballs (13).

Last season Holland started 13 of 14 games for the Warriors. He finished with 33 groundballs and led the team with 26 caused turnovers.

As a sophomore, Holland racked up 35 groundballs and caused 20 turnovers, which was good for third on the team. His efforts landed him on the Northeast-10 All-Conference Second team and First Team All-New England.

In his freshman year, he recorded 31 groundballs and 17 caused turnovers on the season. He scooped up at least one groundball in every game he played in and was named to the Northeast-10 All-Rookie Team.

Holland is also a two-sport athlete; he has been a starting linebacker on the football team since his sophomore year.

Q: How long have you been playing lacrosse?
A: Eight years.

Q: What is your major?



A: Civil engineering.

Q: What is it like being a two-sport athlete in college?

A: It's definitely challenging but I've always played a few different sports my whole life so I'm used to it. And I really enjoy playing football and lacrosse so I'm glad I didn't have to pick one.

Q: Who is your favorite professional athlete?
A: Houston Texans linebacker Brian Cushing.

Q: What other schools recruited you?
A: UMass Amherst, Amherst College, UNH, Harvard, Trinity, Holy Cross.

Q: What made you decide to come to Merrimack?
A: I liked the small school atmosphere and that I would be able to play two sports, along with having a major I wanted to pursue in civil engineering.

Q: Do you have any pre-game rituals?
A: Basically just listen to music and focus on the game, along with carrying JFK (the lacrosse team's miniature bust of President Kennedy, a lacrosse tradition).

Q: Why do you wear number 8?
A: I was given 8 my freshmen year football season and it just stuck, and single digits are sweet.

Q: What is your favorite genre of music? Who are some of your favorite artists?
A: A lot of people think I'm weird but I love metal, so pregame for me is a lot of Slipknot and Five Finger Death Punch.

For Baseball:
It's All About the Team

Justin Ruano '15
Staff Writer

When you think of some of the best teams in sports it's usually the case for a team to have an x-factor player or a few players on the roster to really watch out for. But that is not the case when it comes to the Merrimack baseball team, as this team has the mentality of a team atmosphere more than anything.

"We do not necessarily have an X factor player," said fourth-year coach Jim Martin. "We really try to have a team mentality. From coaches to players, whatever your role is for the day or game we expect us to execute it. We don't have one or two guys to look for. We may have great individual accomplishments during a game or week, but what matters to us is winning. We talk about doing what it takes to win and if we win individual accomplishments will come."

This philosophy so to speak has really helped this team do well this season going an impressive 12-7 on the year with 23 games left to go, all of which will be going up against division and conference opponents. Fortunately for them, the team has done really well this year in conference play by going 6-2 on the year so far. They will be looking to keep up this great play by having a "headlight" approach and keeping everything in front of them for the rest of these 23 games remaining.



"The Northeast-10 is such a difficult conference and has so much depth. We have so many great coaches who work really hard and so many great players," Martin said. "We just need to have a headlight approach and worry about what is in front of us and worry about what we can see. Continue to learn from our mistakes, play hard with great energy all the time no matter who we our opponent is."

Having a team mentality and keeping everything in front of them has led them well this year. But if you are wondering what makes this team special you won't have to wait any further to find out why.

"I think our family atmosphere is really special. It is now my fourth year so most of the players either went through the recruiting process with me or have been with me for four years," he said.

"Me and my wife have dinners at the beginning of each semester at our apartment complex, we do many hours of community service including 5k for Haiti on Homecoming, the Mack Gives Back program in fall, a breast cancer walk in Boston (Martin and the baseball team won the community service award last year in the athletic department), team dinners at Fuddruckers/Panera bread, we have done team movie night," said Martin.

"We have a great relationship with Father Jim Wenzel who is our team chaplain. So I would say the overall team camaraderie and relationships on and off the field contributes to our winning program."



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Muscaro Impresses In Rookie Season

Chris Mason '14
Staff Writer

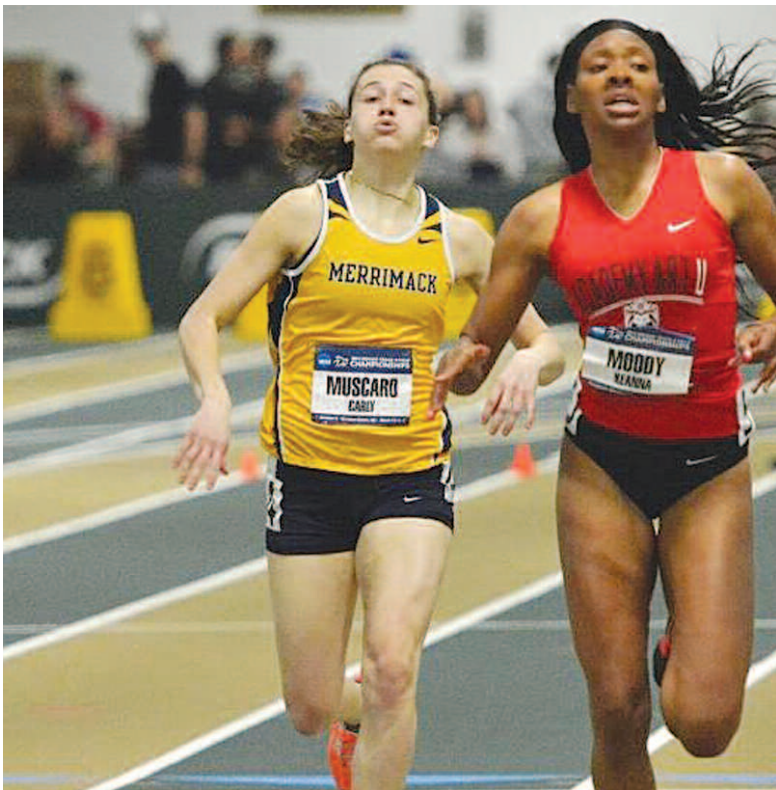
Freshman Carly Muscaro ran away with Northeast-10 Rookie of the Year honors for Women's Indoor Track, and broke her share of records in a remarkable first season as a Warrior.

It'd be reasonable to re-name the Merrimack 400-meter record the "Carly Muscaro," as she broke the school record for the 400-meter dash by three seconds ... and then proceeded to break it five more times throughout the course of the season.

Muscaro said that breaking this record was the most special of all that she's broken, because "It is my main event and I train so hard for it. It is a tough race both physically and mentally."

The 400-meter is longer than a traditional sprint like the 100-meter dash, but too short to be considered a distance race, so it requires a strong degree of mental toughness.

Muscaro ran the event with such speed that she qualified for Division II Nationals in Winston-Salem, N.C. She ran the 400-meter in 56.87 seconds, which was good for a 10th place finish, and missed becoming an All-American by less than half a second. While she's proud of



her finish, the Ashland, Mass., native looks at the trip as a learning experience moving forward.

"Going as a freshman exposes you to the atmosphere that you want to experience again someday. This pushes you to train harder and stay determined," Muscaro said. "Nationals are forever embedded in the back of my mind. I got a sense of what it means to be a real college athlete. I can't wait to go again. Now I have the knowledge of what it is like to be there so next time will be a bit easier."

Track may appear as an

individual sport in many of the events, but Muscaro is quick to credit her teammates for her personal achievements; she points out, "Without them I wouldn't be as successful as I've been."

She explains, "Coming in as a freshman, I didn't really have a lot of technique. The upperclassmen helped guide me with my form and block work."

Muscaro impressed in February's Northeast-10 Championships at the Reggie Lewis Center in Boston, finishing third in her 400-meter with a time of 56.21 seconds. A week later she was even more remarkable in the NE-

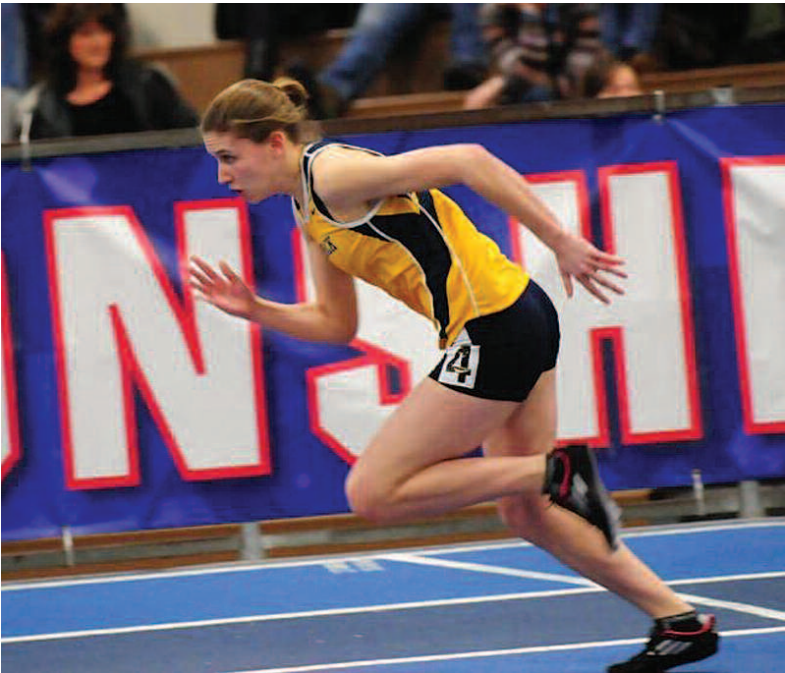
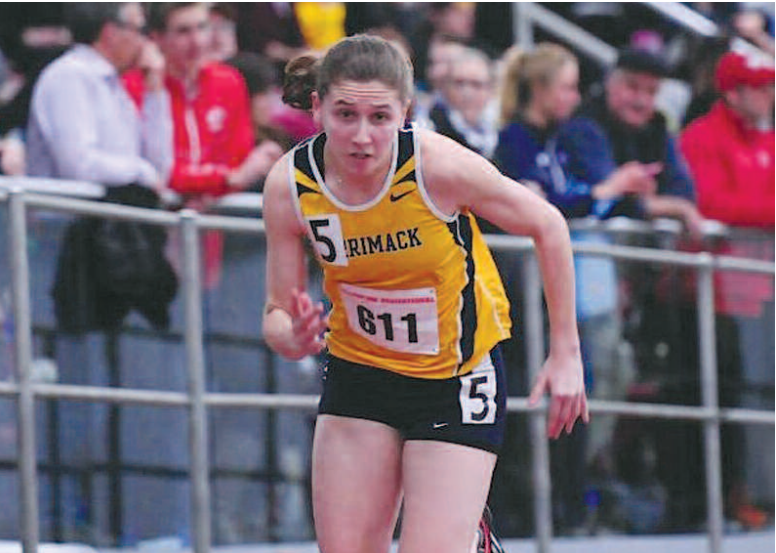
ICAAA Championships. The NEICAAA meet consists of all of the schools in New England, in all divisions. Muscaro finished third again, against greater competition, posting her personal best (and new Merrimack record) of 55.03 seconds.

The three-time NE-10 Rookie of the Week has shown no signs of slowing down with the Outdoor Track season beginning. Muscaro won the 100-meter race against 71 other competitors at last weekend's Tufts Snowflake Classic. She was also on the relay team that placed third in the 4x100 meter event, and the points she accrued helped Merrimack to a fourth place finish out of 24 schools in the Classic.

This won't be enough for Muscaro though; she's an athlete who has no time for complacency.

"I have many goals for my track career here at Merrimack. I hope to return to nationals as an individual qualifier as many times as possible, to go to nationals with the 4x400 relay team, to break 55 seconds in the 400-meter, to be the NE-10 400 champion, to be the NE-ICAAA 400 champion, and to be captain of the team."

But at the end of the day one objective stands above the rest: "My main goal is the become an All-American."



Photos courtesy of
Mike McMahon / The Mack Report

Sports

Weekly Honors

Track and Field:
Junior Christine Manfra - NE-10 Track Athlete of the Week
Freshman Carly Muscaro - NE-10 Track Rookie of the Week
Freshman John Braga - NE-10 Field Rookie of the Week
Freshman Nick Vratsenes - NE-10 Track Rookie of the Week
Baseball:
Sophomore Frank Crinella - NE-10 Player of the Week